(b) the details of the opinions, in each case; and

(c) the details of the action taken/initiated/contemplated in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) Advice for 32 cases were received from Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) during the last three years. This includes 17 disciplinary cases for 1st stage advice and 15 disciplinary cases for 2nd stage advice. The advice/opinion tendered by CVC is of confidential nature and the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan has so far imposed major penalty in seven cases, minor penalty in one case, initiated disciplinary proceedings in 4 cases and have closed 18 cases.

Poor UGC funding for research and development

2456. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Expenditure Reforms Commission, in its recent report, has highlighted, *inter-alia*, that the universities are steadily losing primacy in the research and development efforts in the country, due to poor funding by the University Grants Commission; and

(b) if so, the details of the major observations/recommendations of the Commission and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon, so as to improve the standards of teaching and research in universities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Yes, Sir. In this respect ERC in its recent report has made the following observations:

> "The UGC has responsibility for extending assistance for both standards of teaching and for research. However, within the resources available to the UGC, the share of research is a small fraction. Apart from other equally valid reasons, this situation is also responsible for universities steadily losing primacy in the R&D effort in the country."

(b) The major recommendations made by the Expenditure Reforms Commission in its recent report, *inter-alia*, are: (i) there is a need to develop in-house academic expertise in the UGC, (ii) the responsibility for determination and disbursement of maintenance grant to Delhi Colleges should be transferred along with the funds to the appropriate agency designated by the State Government of Delhi, (iii) there is a need to review a large number of programmes initiated by UGC so as to ensure that the meager funds available with the UGC are not thinly spread over a large number of activities, (iv) UGC should seek to enhance the resources to be allocated for 'research' out of the total funds and find better means to optimally utilize these funds by devising result-oriented approach and (v) UGC should take steps to promote the quality in the universities and colleges and establish linkages between the accreditation of the institutions with the release of the grants etc.

The UGC is in agreement with the general recommendations of the ERC for the increased funding in research. However, the disbursement of grants to the universities and colleges for different programmes, including research projects depends on the quantum of funds made available to the UGC. Despite the financial constraints the research has been a prime concern of the UGC. The UGC has been providing assistance to universities/colleges and individual teachers for research under its different schemes, which include:

1. Teaching and research in interdisciplinary areas.
2. Assistance for Strengthening of Infrastructure in Science and Technology (ASIST)
3. Special Assistance Programme (SAP) in Humanities, Social Sciences, Arts, Law and Engineering & Tech.
4. Research projects to Teachers
5. Advanced Centres for Science Education & Research
6. Research Awards
7. Research Fellowship
8. Research Workshop, Seminars